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VIETNAM COURIER

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NORTH Vietnam

The 6th B.52 super-bomber was downed on January 11, 1968 over Vinh Linh

Up to that date **2,712** U.S. planes were grounded in the D.R.V.N.

SOUTH Vietnam

MANY ENEMY BASES, AIRFIELDS AND C.P.s ATTACKED

8 Enemy Battalions and 9 Companies Put out of Action or Decimated, Including Brigade 3, U.S. First Air Mobile Cavalry Division

ACCORDING to *Giai Phong Press Agency*, in the small hours of Jan. 8, 1968, Hau Nghia, situated about 40km west-northwest of Saigon was violently attacked by the P.L.A.F. who controlled the townlet for many hours. All administrative buildings and military installations were destroyed including the houses of the American advisors and chief of province, the Security Service, the C.P. of a battalion of puppet Infantry Division 25 and an ammunition depot. Fifty persons detained in the town prison were set free and the puppet agents punished.

At the same time, five other positions within a radius of about 10km were assaulted by the guerillas. The total losses suffered by the enemy amounted to one puppet battalion and two companies put out of action.

On Jan. 7, at fifteen kilometres south of Saigon, a puppet battalion and three companies were annihilated at Can Giuoc.

In the triangle formed by Que Son, Tam Ky and Tien Phuoc (three district capitals half way between Da Nang and Chu Lai bases), many enemy positions including the bases of U.S. artillery and armoured vehicles and the H.Q. of Brigade 3, U.S. First Air Mobile Division, were stormed by the P.L.A.F. on January 3 and the following days.

Meanwhile, an enemy column coming to the rescue of the beleaguers was intercepted by the P.L.A.F. who mowed down U.S. Light Infantry Brigade 196 leaving Chu Lai on Jan. 7. After that date the battle was still raging. According to initial reports, the P.L.A.F. put out of action Battalion 1 (Artillery Regiment 21) and Battalion 5 (U.S. Regiment 7), Company Alpha (Battalion 1, Artillery Regiment 30 of 203mm cannons) and 2 American platoons. Three U.S. battalions and H.Q. of Brigade 3, were badly mauled. In total the enemy had 1,600 American put out of action, 39 aircraft downed or destroyed, 17 tanks and armoured cars, an ammunition dump and many military installations destroyed.

GIAI Phong Press Agency reported that on Jan. 2, the P.L.A.F. had inflicted severe losses on U.S. Infantry Division 25 which, violating the New Year's Day truce order of the N.F.L., carried out a raid in Tay Ninh province, 100 km north-northwest of Saigon.

Assailed in their encampments at Ba Chien, 40 km northeast of Tay Ninh, the Yankees had an artillery battalion, 2 armoured companies and 2 infantry companies put out of action (600 casualties), 60 tanks and armoured cars and many big guns destroyed or damaged.

On Dec. 31, a column of U.S. armoured cars which wanted to take advantage of the truce order to re-open a road cut by the guerillas, was completely wiped out, 60km east of Saigon, on Highway 1: 9 M.113 amphibious cars and 2 tanks were destroyed.

ACCORDING to Western reports, a puppet battalion operating on Highway 1 was attacked 6km from Phu My townlet (130km south of Chu Lai and 40km north of Qui Nhon): many firearms were seized by the P.L.A.F. and the losses were "officially recognized as severe" by the enemy himself.

GIAI Phong Press Agency reported that in the Mekong Delta, Battalion 3, Regiment 16, puppet Infantry Division 9, was intercepted by the P.L.A.F. on Jan. 6, on the road between Vinh Long and Tra Vinh towns and suffered 100 casualties including a puppet major; 15 trucks and military vehicles, one 105mm cannon were destroyed and 2 helicopters downed.

ON the night of Dec. 26, Vinh Long airfield was pounded by P.L.A.F guns: 15 choppers were destroyed or damaged and an ammunition depot burnt.

NEAR Bien Hoa base, in the small hours of Jan. 5, the guerillas hammered at Tan Uy sub-sector 33 km north of Saigon and controlled it until 5 o'clock in the morning. Western reports admitted 210 casualties.

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ON the night of January 6, a police station 16km southeast of Saigon was stormed by the guerillas who destroyed the post and punished the wicked policemen.

Guerillas in the Mekong Delta

SAN ANTONIO — A REPLICA OF BALTIMORE

QUANG LOI

THERE was quite a long time, American authorities would mention whenever an occasion offered the statement made by their President in Baltimore in April 1965.

Since these last few months, the statement made by L.B. Johnson in San Antonio before the national conference of congressmen has come in fashion. L. B. Johnson himself, of course, has more than once referred to it. Dean Rusk, as chief the State Department, of course too, has often gone back to it.

On December 29, 1967, in a speech delivered at a reception given in honour of the Mongolian delegation, the D.R.V.N. Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister declared:

"If the U.S. government truly wants to talk, it must, as was made clear in our statement of January 28, 1967 first of all stop unconditionally the bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N. After the U.S. has ended unconditionally the bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N., the D.R.V.N. will hold talks with the U.S. on questions concerned."

This declaration has received ever greater support from world and American public opinion. On the other hand the White House finds itself in an utter quandary. In fact, it has not tired of saying for quite a long time: We do not know what Hanoi would do if we stopped the bombing of North Viet Nam! Now everything is plain, and there is no need to dot the i's.

Answering public opinion Dean Rusk, in an instinctive fashion so to say, on Jan. 4 resorted again to the San Antonio statement, as a sorcerer to his incantation.

As for the American side, he once again called the attention of public opinion to what President Johnson had said in San Antonio to the effect that "the U.S. is willing immediately to stop aerial and naval bombardment of North Viet Nam, when this will lead promptly to productive discussions."

It is expedient to look back at this famous San Antonio statement to see whether there is something new in it, compared with that of Baltimore, in other words, to see whether there is something constructive.

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THE GIST OF U.S. ACTION IN VIET NAM

L.B. JOHNSON began his San Antonio speech with the inevitable plea for his policy of war in Viet Nam:

"...The key to all we have done is our own security. At times of crisis — before asking Americans to fight and die to resist aggression in a foreign land — every American president has had to answer this question: Is the aggression a threat — not only to the immediate victim — but to the United States and to the peace and security of the world of which we are a part?

"That is the question which Dwight Eisenhower, John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson had to answer in facing the issue of Viet Nam."

This justification has justified nothing. It is an worn-out theme already rejected by public opinion, a logic that makes a mockery of all logic.

Who can believe that the Vietnamese people threaten the security of the U.S. since they have sent no troops, aircraft and warships to attack its territory? Who can believe that the nearly 500,000-strong U.S. Expeditionary Corps is killing Vietnamese not to conquer but to defend the Vietnamese nation.

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READY AT ALL TIMES

IN Baltimore, Lyndon Johnson declared that he "will talk to any government, anywhere, anytime." Shortly before his death, Rev. A.J. Muste truly embarrass him by taking him at his word and inviting him to go to Hanoi.

This time, in San Antonio, Johnson came out again with almost the same statement.

"I am ready to talk tomorrow with Ho Chi Minh and other chiefs of state concerned."

"I am ready to have State Secretary Dean Rusk to meet with their foreign minister tomorrow."

So much for his "good-will."

As to the formula he offered in San Antonio, it goes forth three prerequisites for the cessation of the U.S. aerial and naval bombardment of North Viet Nam:

— When this leads promptly to discussions,

— The said discussions must be productive,

— The U.S. assumes that while discussions proceed, North Viet Nam would not take advantage of the bombing cessation or limitation.

In an article on Jan. 4, the *Washington Post* asserted that Johnson had reduced his conditions to two: the discussions must be "productive," and the adversary must not take advantage of these discussions to secure a military gain.

We shall not dwell on the substance of these conditions which are so much of a challenge to common sense, to deal with this question only, this fundamental question: what will the White House's good-will look like when it is stuffed with a lot of pre-requisites? Has the U.S. government the right to set conditions for the cessation of its bombing of the D.R.V.N. and an end to its aggression against Viet Nam?

In everybody's eyes, especially after a cynical escalation on the part of the Pentagon and after the unequivocal conclusions of the Bertrand Russell International, it is clear that U.S. action in Viet Nam is an aggression no more and no less, whose objective is not the "security" of the U.S. but the conquest of Viet Nam to impose a neo-colonialist regime on her. The U.S. is the aggressor, the Vietnamese people are victims of aggression. Washington has no right whatsoever to set any term for the cessation of this aggression against South and North Viet Nam.

In San Antonio, Johnson rehashed, without even bothering to camouflage it, his theme of conditional cessation of the U.S. bombing of North Viet Nam, which he had advanced in Baltimore more than two years ago. The Johnson "ready-at-all-times" claim sounded as one of the most impudent lies.

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VIETNAMESE REPLY

THE U.S. air war against the D.R.V.N. will soon enter its fourth year. This duration alone is enough to show its failure. The U.S. has mobilised a powerful air force and its 7th Fleet in the hope of breaking the Vietnamese people's will to resist its aggression and imposing its dictate on them.

However, this has got nowhere. In the North as in the South, our people have dealt the hardest blows at the enemy and have been winning ever greater successes. If the imperialists obdurately pursued their criminal war against Viet Nam, we will resist them with might and main and inflict on them more serious losses. U.S. bombs can in no way intimidate us. Neither can U.S. lies hoodwink us.

On Dec. 25, 1967, President Ho Chi Minh launched a rousing appeal to the nation: "Our 31 million compatriots in the two zones men and women, old and young, must be 31 million valiant fighters determined to win final victory over the U.S. aggressors to save the country."

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Our people, united as one, have responded and will respond to this appeal with all their fervour and all their strength, for there is no other way to silence the hawks of San Antonio and thwart their criminal plans.

January 5, 1968

SCANNING THE FOREIGN PRESS

JOHNSON DRIVEN TO THE WALL

FOREIGN Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh's recent declaration at a reception in honour of the Mongolian Party and Government delegation has become the focus of world public opinion. Many U.S. senators including Robert Kennedy, McCarthy, William Fulbright, Coper have maintained that Johnson must come to the conference table or agree to the immediate cessation of the bombing of North Viet Nam. Political figures of many countries have raised their voices to condemn the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam (French President de Gaulle) or to demand cessation of the bombing of North Viet Nam (Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi) or to urge Washington to adopt a positive attitude like the Foreign Ministers Couve de Murville (France), Fanfani (Italy), Luns (Netherlands), W. Brandt (West Germany) and U.N. Secretary-General U Thant. From Paris to London, from New Delhi to Djakarta, from Bonn to Tokyo... even the Vatican and the U.N.O. newspapers representing a wide variety of views have taken up this declaration as a subject for lively comments and heated debates.

World public opinion has shown keen interest in it and tried to figure out its full content and value. The London *Times* has estimated that this declaration "deserves serious attention." According to *AP* on Jan. 3, 1968, to satisfy public opinion at home, the correspondent of the Westinghouse Broadcasting Company, in this way or that, testified that this declaration once again throws light on the fact that Hanoi's "position is clear... It is not unofficial or semi-official... It has been overboard... The news directly hit the White House: "The next step is up to President Johnson."

Once bitten twice shy. Washington has been quable to conceal its first reaction. As the *Paris Presse* put it, "The Americans are wary of Hanoi's proposal." (*Reuter*, Jan. 4, 1968). This wariness has been explained by *Le Figaro* of Jan. 2, 1968 as follows: "Painful pains have been taken in San Antonio then in Washington to minimise the declarations of Nguyen Duy Trinh in Hanoi (Nguyen Duy Trinh's answers to questions put by Merchett on Jan. 28, 1967 — *Ed.*)" The *Chicago Sun Times* of Jan. 5 sarcastically recalled Johnson's assertions, saying that the U.S. has persisted in its groundless claim for a bombing cessation, that is, Hanoi should reciprocate. World public opinion, especially the American press, has seen that the recent declaration of Nguyen Duy Trinh hits the nail on the head. The *Chicago Sun Times* says that now "action which would give credit to our word" is needed. The *Los Angeles Times* gives a clearer hint about what Washington should do." In the exploratory period which we believe should now follow, it would be wise for the U.S. to demonstrate its earnestness by doing nothing to escalate the air war on North Viet Nam." The *New York Times* held a similar view, In our view, President Johnson must act now to start the talks, to begin with, the bombing must cease." The *Chicago Sun Times* urges its readers "to bombard the White House with letters and telegrams urging a halt in the bombing of North Viet Nam." More or less, these papers have reflected the reaction among progressive Americans long opposed to the White House's policy.

Meanwhile, in Western Europe, public opinion has shattered the illusions of the declaration by the U.S. psychological war machine. The French paper *Combat*, on Jan. 1 wrote, "Washington will no longer be able to say that Hanoi has not reacted on the question put to it. However, in Washington, no official or informal comment has so far been made. It seems that effort is being made to find a new excuse to term the declaration of the North Viet Nam Government as inadequate." The London *Times* has bluntly said that "They (the Americans) are in no position — morally or militarily — to disapprove even the faintest chance of negotiations without very good reasons indeed."

Public opinion has exerted so strong a pressure that after the news conference on Jan. 4 at which Dean Rusk had tried his best to defend U.S. policy, the French paper *Le Monde* has exposed the obduracy, embarrassment and weakness of the U.S. Government, "The U.S. has not ceased reaffirming its strength but it has had bare its weakness by refusing Hanoi's offer." While the Vatican paper *Osservatore Della Dominica* points to U.S. failure in its criminal venture in North Viet Nam, the American paper *National Catholic* with a fairly wide circulation, identifies the die-hards in the State Department who have insisted on groundless conditions to refuse a bombing cessation, "We have no right whatever to impose such terms and there is absolutely no sign that our enemy, North or South, will accept them while he still has power to resist." In a dispatch on Jan. 5, after reporting that Johnson had been criticized by American political circles for his "passing over two or three chances for negotiations," suggested the way for Johnson to carefully reject Hanoi's proposal. However, it had to concede that failing that, Johnson would risk becoming the target for criticism by the opposition. Developing this theme still further, the American paper, *Atlanta*, on Jan. 5 wrote, "If the Administration again backs away from negotiations, it should at least stop saying we are ready to negotiate any place, any time." Dealing with the consequences of Johnson's obduracy and bluff, the French paper *Combat* rather rightly say, "The U.S. has been driven to the wall it has built itself.'

Timorously, the Men in Washington Make a New War Escalation

THERE is a worldwide demand that the U.S. should stop bombing the D.R.V.N. immediately. Yet the war is being escalated there by U.S. aircraft. Besides violations during the cease-fire periods by U.S. aircraft with strikes at many localities of North Viet Nam, savage bombing raids have been recorded from Hanoi capital to Hai Phong port, from the southern areas up north to the Viet Nam — China border.

IN THE MOST CROWDED STREETS OF HAI PHONG

FOR three days running, from Jan. 3 to 5, the centre of this port city and many suburban villages were attacked. Ky Dong and Hoang Van Thu, the two streets lying in the very heart of the city next to the Municipal Theatre, were bombed. Dozens of dwelling houses and many drug stores and department stores were demolished. Explosive, steel-pellet and delayed-action bombs were dropped on Phan Boi Chau and Lan Ong streets, largely inhabited by Chinese residents, destroying many homes and killing many Chinese. A 60-year-old woman, Nguyen Thi Nhung, No.11, lane 18, Phan Boi Chau street, was killed before she could reach shelter. The old woman Nguyen Thi Am who died of illness and was awaiting burial had her body blasted by U.S. bombs.

In the same period, U.S. planes also raided the Hanoi area, bombing Yen Vien district town and many other residential quarters on the outskirts of the city and firing rockets inside the city. On Jan. 4, they even attacked Lang Son town close to the Chinese border.

ATTACK ON CHINESE CARGO-BOAT *HONGQI 158*

DURING the same period, on the morning of Jan. 1, 1968, in a raid on Cam Pha port, U.S. planes attacked the Chinese cargo-boat *Hongqi 158*, causing many wounded and serious damage. It is to be pointed out that this act of provocation happened two months after the attack on the Chinese cargo-boat *Hongqi 14* on Nov. 25, 1967, which had resulted in 8 wounded and heavy damage.

In its recent communique, the Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of China strongly protested against such piratical acts of the American imperialists. It stressed that far from being intimidated, the 700 million Chinese would step up their assistance to the Vietnamese people in their struggle until final victory.

ATTACK ON SOVIET FREIGHTER *PARESLAVL ZALESSKI*

ON Jan. 4, the Soviet freighter Pareslavl Zalesski with a food cargo was bombed in Hai Phong port, and many delayed-action bombs dumped into Cam river, the main channel to the harbour, thus threatening and damaging many foreign ships then at anchor there. The Soviet ship was seriously damaged. The bombing was deliberate. According to skipper Boris Tsovoskov and political commissar Semen Mastov at 15.40 hours, 15 U.S. planes cruised past the ship and dropped many delayed-action bombs around it. Until 19.20 hours, bombs continued to explode sporadically at distances from 2 to 100 metres from the ship.

The Soviet Government has sent a note energetically protesting against this bombing and instructing the Soviet diplomatic concerned that measures would be taken to ensure security for Viet Nam-bound Soviet ships.

Following previous attacks on merchant ships of various countries at anchor in North Vietnamese ports, the bombing of the Chinese and Soviet ships was not only a serious violation of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam but also an encroachment upon the right of all countries to free navigation and the use of harbours.

On its part the D.R.V.N. Foreign Ministry has condemned this piratic acts by Washington.

U.S. AUTHORITIES' WORDS AND DEEDS

IN a statement on Jan. 6, 1968 condemning Washington's new war escalation, the D.R.V.N. Foreign Ministry said:

"Everybody knows that public opinion in many countries, including the United States, has been warmly acclaiming the correct position of the D.R.V.N. Government and is demanding most energetically that U.S. rulers stop unconditionally the bombing of North Viet Nam. Washington finds itself in a fix but at the same time proves very obdurate and bellicose. Its new escalation is an intolerably brazen act of provocation. Public opinion can realize more clearly that the U.S. rulers' professions of "peace" and "negotiations" are merely shameless lies.

The current war escalation by the U.S. imperialists is not a sign of their strength but only shows that they are in a quandary and deadlock in Viet Nam.

(Continued page 7)

ON THE OCCASION OF THE WEEK OF INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY WITH THE ASIAN, AFRICAN AND LATIN AMERICAN PEOPLES (JAN. 3-10, 1968)

ASIAN, AFRICAN AND LATIN AMERICAN PEOPLES RESOLVED TO STEP UP NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT

TON QUANG PHIET
President of the Viet Nam Asian-African Solidarity Committee

TWO years ago, the First Asian, African and Latin American Solidarity Conference was held in Havana, capital of the Republic of Cuba, the first free country in the Western Hemisphere, marking a new development in the solidarity movement of the oppressed peoples against imperialism. Since then the revolutionary forces in the three continents have been increasing mutual support and assistance and the national liberation movement has been recording new successes.

The Asian, African and Latin American areas covering 71 per cent of the globe with a population of more than 2,300 million are areas where revolutionary storms are brewing. In the irresistible impetus of their offensive, the Asian, African and Latin American peoples have been dealing telling blows at the imperialists, causing their colonial system to disintegrate. Over more than twenty years a series of countries have won political independence at different degrees.

The struggle of the peoples in the three continents for national independence, peace, democracy and social progress is continuing in all forms with the spearhead directed at U.S. imperialism. In Asia, especially South-East Asia, the revolutionary movement is particularly vigorous. The people of South Viet Nam are inflicting setbacks on more than a million U.S., puppet and satellite troops, driving them into a tighter and tighter corner. The Lao people have won the control of an area covering two-thirds of the territory and inhabited by nearly one half of the country's population. They are holding firm their arms and winning many successes in the fight against U.S. aggression and for national salvation. The Cambodian people have been beating back all provocative attacks by the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen, firmly resolved to defend their independence and neutrality. The patriotic struggle of the Thai people against the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen is gaining momentum in its armed and other forms of struggle. In the Philippines, Malaya and North Kalimantan the insurgent forces continue to operate in spite of innumerable difficulties. The South Korean people are persistently carrying on their struggle against the U.S. aggressors and the Pak Jung Hi clique. The Japanese people have been taking energetic actions for the abolition of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, the return of Okinawa and Ogasawara to Japan, the dismantling of U.S. military bases in Japan, and for independence, peace and neutrality.

In the Middle East, the people of South Yemen have won the day in their armed struggle against the British imperialists and founded the People's Republic of Southern Yemen on November 29, 1967. The other Arab peoples are carrying on their struggle against the U.S. and British imperialists and the Israeli aggressors in defence of their independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. In Africa, for many years now the people of Angola, Mozambique, Guinea (Portuguese) and Cape Verde have waging armed struggle for national liberation. The people of South Africa and Zimbabwe have been relentlessly struggling against the racial segregation of the white reactionary colonialists. Following the victory of the Cuban revolution, the movement for national independence and democracy in Latin America has reached new heights with the development of both armed and political struggles. In the United States, the Black people's movement against racial discrimination and for liberation is also making headway.

In order to fight off the offensive of the revolutionary forces and make good their heavy setbacks, the imperialists headed by U.S. imperialism have to switch over to neo-colonialism, using the "hand that gives gathers" tactics. They "grant" independence to a number of countries but on the other hand leave no stone unturned to keep these countries under their sway political, military and economic. To this effect they have used a series of manoeuvres ranging from economic and military "aid," aggressive and military "aid," aggressive alliances to subversive activities, armed intervention and naked aggression.

The vigorous development of the national democratic revolution in Asia, Africa and Latin America in the recent years shows that however frantic and cunning the U.S. imperialists and their followers may be, they cannot hold in check the revolutionary tide which is surging all over the world. The aggressive war of the U.S. in Viet Nam has also brought home to the Asian, African and Latin American peoples the aggressive and bellicose nature of U.S. imperialism and made them realize that the only way to win genuine independence and freedom is to strengthen solidarity and mutual support and to put up a resolute revolutionary struggle and thwart all manoeuvres and schemes of neo-colonialism. Today, the national liberation movement, the force of the socialist camp and the struggle of the working class in the capitalist countries are three great revolutionary currents which are continually assaulting the bastion of imperialism headed by the U.S.

The struggle of the Vietnamese people against the U.S. imperialist aggressors is a component part of the national liberation movement in the Asian, African and Latin American area. The Vietnamese people have always been following and supporting the struggle of the Asian, African and Latin American peoples and regard the victories of these peoples as their own victories. The Vietnamese people sincerely thank the tri-continental peoples and all other peoples in the world for the valuable support they have given to their resistance against U.S. aggression, for national salvation. They will continue to do their utmost to enhance the militant solidarity with the other peoples in the three continents in order to push ahead the national liberation movement. As a practical deed in response to the Week of International Solidarity with the Asian, African and Latin American Peoples' National Liberation Movement, the Vietnamese people will step up further their resistance against U.S. aggression, and are determined to translate into reality the sacred appeal of President Ho Chi Minh and to rush forward in the flush of victories in order to defeat the U.S. aggressors, liberate the South, defend the North and reunify the country, thereby actively contributing to the common revolutionary cause of the Asian, African and Latin American peoples and all progressive people the world over, and to the cause of national independence, democracy peace and social progress.

President HO CHI MINH receives H.H. NORODOM PHURISSARA

NEW DEVELOPMENT OF THE FRIENDSHIP AND MILITANT SOLIDARITY BETWEEN VIET NAM and CAMBODIA

IN the first days of the new year, the Vietnamese people receive with great joy and enthusiasm His Highness Norodom Phurissara, Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, coming to the D.R.V.N. for a friendship visit, and regard this as a manifestation of unshakable solidarity between the peoples of Viet Nam and Cambodia.

Viet Nam and Cambodia are neighbours sealing together by a long-standing friendship and militant solidarity in the struggle against colonialism. Both countries are now supporting and encouraging each other in the fight against the common enemy—the U.S. imperialist aggressor.

The Vietnamese people highly admire the Cambodian people who, under the clearsighted leadership of Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, have recorded great successes in the defence of their sacred national rights and foreign policy of peace and neutrality. The Vietnamese people respect and unstintedly support this policy of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and energetically condemn the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen in South Viet Nam and Thailand for provoking, brazenly slandering and threatening Cambodia. They sincerely thank the Cambodian government and people for their staunch support to the Vietnamese people's struggle against the U.S. aggressors and, for national salvation.

The Viet Nam — Cambodia joint communique issued on the occasion of the visit of His Highness Norodom Phurissara, Foreign Minister of Cambodia, to the D.R.V.N., voices the militant solidarity and lasting co-operation between the two countries and at the same time manifests the militant solidarity between Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos in their struggle against the U.S. imperialist aggressors.

The joint communique stresses:

"The two parties once again reaffirm their firm determination to strengthen their relations of good neighbourhood and long-term co-operation on the basis of the five principles of peaceful co-existence: respect for each other's independence and sovereignty, non-aggression and non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit and peaceful co-existence... The two parties agree to take necessary measures for the further development of the economic and cultural relations between the two countries... The two parties are unanimous in highly appreciating the positive results of the Indo-Chinese People's Conference convened on the initiative of Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, and declare that they favour all initiative aimed at enhancing the solidarity and friendship between the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao peoples... The two parties are unanimous in supporting the patriotic struggle of the Lao people to defend and build a peaceful, independent, neutral, democratic, unified and prosperous Laos..."

The joint communique energetically condemns the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys for scheming to make new war escalation in Viet Nam while advancing phoney "peace negotiations" in order to sidetrack the attention of world opinion, for blatantly slandering Cambodia and threatening to invade her and launching nibbling attacks against the zones liberated by the Lao patriotic forces.

The Vietnamese people highly value this successful friendship visit of His Highness Norodom Phurissara to the D.R.V.N. and warmly welcome the joint communique signed. They joyfully remark that the militant solidarity, friendship and co-operation between Viet Nam and Cambodia have been consolidated and developed with every passing day. They pledge themselves to struggle with might and main in order to unceasingly strengthen this friendship for the abiding interests of the peoples of both countries and of the Indo-Chinese people in their struggle against U.S. aggression for the defence of their countries and for making them prosperous.

VIET NAM - CAMBODIA JOINT COMMUNIQUE

AT the invitation of Nguyen Duy Trinh, Vice-Premier and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, His Highness Norodom Phurissara, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Cambodia, paid a friendship visit to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam from December 31, 1967 to January 8, 1968.

His Highness Minister was accompanied by His Excellency Samreth Soth, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and Mr. Yok Lan Vat Ho, Chief of Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

During his sojourn in Viet Nam, His Highness Minister attended a solemn meeting held in his honour by representatives of the population of Hanoi capital. Together with his distinguished companions, he visited a number of industrial, agricultural, cultural and educational establishments, a unit of the People's Army and Hai Phong port. Wherever they went, the Cambodian guests were given a very warm welcome by the Vietnamese people.

His Highness Minister and his distinguished companions were happy to be received by President Ho Chi Minh, Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee Truong Chinh and Premier Pham Van Dong, and to have cordial conversations with them.

His Highness Norodom Phurissara, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the members of the Cambodian delegation expressed their profound gratitude to His Excellency President Ho Chi Minh, Great Patriot of Viet Nam, for the honour he reserved for them by according them audience. The lofty kindness of the President toward the delegation is a clear manifestation of his sentiments of esteem, friendship and fraternity toward the Cambodian people.

President Ho Chi Minh has extended his respectful regards to Her Majesty Queen Kossamak Nearireath and his warm congratulations to Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk. He paid tribute to the resolute struggle of the Cambodian people to defend the independence, neutrality and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia. He praised the militant solidarity between the Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples in face of the common enemy, and their eternal and indefectible friendship. Outwardly, the U.S. imperialists look strong, but actually they are not. A people, however small, if it is united, can defeat any enemy.

The Cambodian delegation also expresses its profound gratitude to His Excellency Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee Truong Chinh and His Excellency Prime Minister Pham Van Dong for the talks they have accorded it, talks full of frankness and fraternal cordiality.

Vice-Premier and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam Nguyen Duy Trinh and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Cambodia, His Highness Norodom Phurissara, have exchanged, in a friendly atmosphere, views on problems concerning both parties.

THE two parties are unanimously noting that:

For a long time now the U.S. imperialists have hatched the scheme of occupying the Indo-Chinese countries to turn them into new-type colonies and military bases of the U.S.; they have systematically sabotaged the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indo-China and the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos.

They have launched a war of aggression in South Viet Nam and a "war of destruction" against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and are planning to take new steps in their "escalation" in Viet Nam. Their professions about "peace negotiations" are only a manoeuvre of diversion to camouflage their plans of intensifying and expanding their war of aggression.

Through political, economic and military means and with the help of their henchmen in South Viet Nam and Thailand and the "Khmer Serei," the American imperialists have attempted to force the Royal Government of Cambodia to renounce its policy of peace and neutrality. They have instigated their lackeys in Saigon and Bangkok to demand a modification of the present borders of Cambodia. They are impudently slandering Cambodia to prepare opinion for an aggression against this country.

They have interfered more and more deeply in the Lao people's internal affairs, sabotaging the tripartite national union government, starting a "special war" in Laos and are conducting nibbling operations against the areas under the control of the Lao patriotic forces.

They have for a long time now used Thailand as a big military base in service of their war of aggression in Viet Nam and Laos and for attacks and provocations against Cambodia.

In face of the common enemy, the militant solidarity between the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao peoples has been strengthened and developed day after day in the interests of their struggle for independence and peace and for the sake of the lasting friendship and co-operation between the three countries. The two parties are unanimous in appreciating highly the positive results of the Indo-Chinese People's Conference convened on the initiative of Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, and declare that they favour all initiatives aimed at enhancing the solidarity and friendship between the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao peoples.

The two parties are unanimous in supporting the patriotic struggle of the Lao people to defend and build a peaceful, independent, neutral, democratic, unified and prosperous Laos, in accordance with the 1954 Geneva Agreements and the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos.

THE Royal Government of Cambodia and the Cambodian people express their profound admiration for the great successes recorded by the Vietnamese people in their struggle against U.S. aggression and for national salvation under the clearsighted leadership of President Ho Chi Minh.

The Royal Government of Cambodia once again reaffirms its resolute support for the Vietnamese people's resistance till final victory, its total support for the 4-point stand of the D.R.V.N. Government and the Political Programme of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the only genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people. The Royal Government of Cambodia fully support the January 28, 1967 Statement of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

ON behalf of the D.R.V.N. Government and the Vietnamese people, Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh sincerely thanks the Royal Government of Cambodia and the brother Cambodian people for their resolute support to the Vietnamese people's resistance war. The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam regards this valuable support as an encouragement to the Vietnamese people's just struggle.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Vietnamese people express their profound admiration for the great successes which the Cambodian people, under the clearsighted leadership of Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, have recorded in their struggle against the U.S. imperialists to defend their sacred national rights and their policy of peace and neutrality, and in building a sovereign economy and developing their national culture.

The Government of the Democratic Repulic of Viet Nam reaffirms once again its respect and total support to the policy of peace and neutrality of the Kingdom of Cambodia, its recognition of Cambodia's territorial integrity within her present bordres, and renews its commitment to respect it. The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam solemnly declares that in case of U.S. aggression against Cambodia, the Vietnamese people are ready to respond positively to the eventual appeals of the Royal Government in its struggle to defend the independence, sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity of its country.

On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia and the Cambodian people, His Highness Foreign Minister Norodom Phurissara sincerely thanks the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the brother Vietnamese people for having constantly and carefulously respected the independence, sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia and firmly supported the just struggle of the Cambodian people, and regards this valuable support as an encouragement to the Cambodian people's just struggle.

THE two parties unanimously note that Viet Nam and Cambodia are two close neighbours, the people of the two countries live on the same Indo-Chinese peninsula, have long-standing economic and cultural relations and have suffered the same colonialist domination. At present, they have the same goal of struggle — independence and freedom for their Fatherland —, the same aspiration — to strengthen friendship, co-operation and mutual assistance in building their country along the way which suits them. The two parties once again reaffirm their firm determination to strengthen their relations of good neighbourhood and long-term co-operation on the basis of the five principles of peaceful co-existence: respect for each other's independence and sovereignty, non-aggression and non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit and peaceful co-existence.

The two parties are happy to note that in the past years, the friendly relations and fraternal co-operation between the two countries have developed very favourably.

The exchanges of letters between President Ho Chi Minh and Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, the friendly meetings between Samdech and Premier Pham Van Dong, the exchange of Government delegations between the two countries and the mutual encouragement and support have contributed to strengthening the mutual understanding and confidence between the two peoples and their solidarity in the struggle to defend and build their countries. The establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries marks a new development of historic significance in the Vietnamese-Cambodian relations.

The exchanges of letters between Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk and Mr. Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation; the sending of delegations and the establishment of a permanent representation of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation in Cambodia as well as

(Continued page 7)

INDUSTRY IN FACE OF U.S. WAR OF DESTRUCTION

OVER the past few years, U.S. warplanes have been fiercely striking at various industrial undertakings in North Viet Nam, in particular, the old, large-scale ones built in various cities and industrial centres.

By overcoming innumerable difficulties, the working class of North Viet Nam has succeeded in maintaining old production bases and in building new ones.

In heavy industry, general output value in 1966 and 1967 approximated the 1965 mark although many undertakings of this branch of economy were selected targets for U.S. aircraft whose strikes increase in intensity with every passing year.

Take electricity for example. Until now, electric supply for urgent needs has been kept flowing. Electricity output serving such important branches as communications, transport and agriculture has been maintained and has even shown an increase over the previous years. The power grid has been consolidated, strengthened and extended still further.

Here is another case in point: The Quang Ninh coal mining area overlooking the Bac Bo Gulf and lying on the usual air route of incoming U.S. planes has been subjected to constant raids. Yet, coal continue to be produced and supplied to various branches while capital construction and mine improvement has been stepped up in preparation for long-term, large-scale exploitation in the future. Here, "war-time innovation introduction conferences" has been held to seek the workers' suggestions for maintaining and raising output. The workers make suggestions and it is they themselves who open new pits, build auxiliary mines, set up mobile road and bridge repair teams, post permanent teams at key points, make mobile coal-sieves and coal-powered generators, modify a number of mining machines so that they can be worked either by electricity or by oil, in anticipation of a temporary power failure, and so on...

Production of electric transformers

Remarkably the engineering industry has developed at a vigorous and regular tempo, even in the condition of decentralisation and dispersion and amidst difficulties in getting electricity, coal and materials. Production plans for main products, such as machine-tools, mechanical pumps, Diesel motors, electric transformers, small power generators, bicycles, spare parts for cars and other means of production, have been fulfilled. The rate of average increase remains rapid for a number of main products. Many factories have been built and gone in for specialisation.

The chemical, fertilizer, building material, metal and glass industries have also made great progress in so far as maintenance and re-orientation of production are concerned. In light industry, production also keeps going at weaving-mills, knitting ware factories and tailoring workshops, although decentralised and meeting with many difficulties too.

In 1967, paper-mills, gourmet-powder, sweets, tea, cigarette and other factories overfulfilled their production plans. Sauce output recorded a six-fold increase over 1965. The salt production fulfilled the 1967 plan over two months ahead of schedule; especially in a number of coastal provinces fiercely attacked by the enemy, output reached a record high: by the end of October 1967, Quang Binh, Ha Tinh and Nghe An provinces close to the temporary demarcation line, had 133.6, 123.22 and 116.7 per cent fulfilled their yearly plans respectively.

Apart from big, centrally-run enterprises in the past few years, around 500 medium- and small-sized industrial undertakings were built and put into commission in various localities. Regional industries develop at an accelerated tempo year by year. Capital investments for the building of regional industries in 1966 equalled the total of the four years 1961—1964 put together and doubled in 1967 in Hanoi and Hai Phong and the provinces of Nam Ha, Hai Duong, Ha Tay, Hung Yen and Ninh Binh, 3 times greater than in 1966.

IN the two years of U.S. air attacks, the economic potential and productivity of Hanoi rose unceasingly. The capital city possessed many regional industry enterprises; its engineering goods increased by 53 per cent compared with 1965, particularly the machines serving communication and transport (144 per cent). Hanoi also turned out a great quantity of machines for agricultural engineering workshops of its districts. In agriculture, it harvested three bumper crops; its annual rice yield reached 5,169 tons per hectare and its market gardening saw an increase of 14 per cent compared with 1966. In Hanoi the number of general education pupils rose to 210,000, increasing by 30 per cent over 1965. 72,000 adults attended complementary classes in spare time. There existed a regional network of higher education and intermediate vocational schools and classes enrolled by nearly 10,000 students. The network of health service of Hanoi went down to agricultural co-operatives and town-sectors.

OVER the past three years, the film distribution and cinema branch in the North has been expanded. From 260 in 1964, the number of mobile film projection teams rose to 323 in 1966 and 413 in 1967 (not including the teams run by the army, government departments, schools and T.U. organizations). With these projection teams, all the regions of North Viet Nam are able to see films.

AFTER three years of war against the U.S. aggressors and of socialist construction, scientific researches in higher education establishments have recorded many achievements. The Polytechnic College has sent 150 cadres and students to help various provinces to those in 1965. In 1967 capital investments increased again by 37 per cent compared with 1966. In 1966, general output value of regional industries as a whole increased by nearly 8% compared with 1964 when the U.S. imperialists had not yet stepped up their war of destruction. In 1967, when the war became more ferocious, regional industries kept developing regularly, vigorously and extensively in the delta, the midlands and highlands as well as in the former 4th Zone. The ratio of the engineering industry in the regional industries rose from 11 per cent in 1964 to 17 per cent in 1967. Compared with 1964, output of some branches of regional industry increased quite rapidly: over 100 per cent for cement, 75 per cent for phosphate, 1,200 per cent for insecticides, nearly 100 per cent for glassware... The production of a number of main items of daily necessities also grew fairly rapidly.

Regional industries have developed new production lines and began producing commodities which require a rather high technique such as steel smelting, iron tubes, soft cast-iron picks, machine-tools, paper cranks, generators, motors, electric transformers, electrometers, coke making, processing of lead and zinc powder, small means of water transport etc...

Great attention has been paid to the development of handicrafts, improved farm implements and small tools: ploughshares, sickles, hoes, spades, rakes, etc... Regional industry has gradually become an effective arm of centrally-run industry in the development of national economy.

In defiance of the vicious destructive manoeuvres and activities of the U.S. imperialists, industry, just as other economic and cultural activities in North Viet Nam, develops day by day. This is a victory of decisive significance for the Vietnamese people in their anti-U.S. fight to save the country and build socialism.

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IN 1966 and 1967, central and regional industries supplied to agricultural co-operatives, 5,500 small engineering stations comprising about 16,000 machines such as husking machine, animal food processing machine, pump, electric generators.

The tempo of this supply is stepped up year after year from the delta to the highlands. The number of these small engineering stations built in 1967 in Hanoi and the provinces of Nam Ha, Hai Duong, Ha Tay, Hung Yen and Ninh Binh, was 3 times greater than in 1966.

SOUTH VIETNAM

THE SAIGON REGIME, A PRODUCT OF U.S. DOLLARS, DECEIT AND BAYONETS

PHAM THANH VINH

IN vain has U.S.-neo-colonialism opposed its shaky "Saigon regime" to the N.F.L., banner of independence, democracy and peace in South Viet Nam. Washington has desperately tried to back Saigon with a build up of nearly half a million G.I.'s and a war budget officially fifteen times superior to the appropriation for L.B.J.'s anti-poverty and "Great Society" programme. The puppet character of a regime imposed from abroad growing more and more patent, the White House finally performed its classic game of fraudulent "elections." In spite of the magic power of the dollar, the machiavellian moves and stage direction of the C.I.A. and the U.S. Embassy in Saigon, the true origin and nature of the Saigon regime and the true character of the Saigon elections have become transparent to everyone. American neo-colonialism has only succeeded in exposing its cynism, cruelty and perfidy.

WHERE DOES THE PRESENT SAIGON REGIME SPRING FROM?

THE Thieu - Ky military tandem, recently coupled with the Loc "civilian government," which is but an adulterated version of the Ky cabinet, the result of the last of a series of U.S.-sponsored putsches – beginning with the crisis of Ngo Dinh Diem's family dictatorship. The present Saigon regime owes its existence to the condemnation of the Ngo Dinh Diem regime by Washington and to the needs of U.S. policy towards Viet Nam—particularly South Viet Nam – after the fall of Ngo Dinh Diem.

U.S. use of puppets is torn by inherent contradictions. It is based on the necessity of forcibly setting up a neo-colonialist regime. No wonder that the most reactionary, bellicose, blood-thirsty and at the same time the most docile henchmen have finally been picked up. The Ngo family with Ngo Dinh Diem as a typical representative was chosen in the first period of neo-colonialist policy, under its most camouflaged form (civilian power through a nepotist dictatorship marked by an extremely anti-national, anti-democratic and anti-communist character, backed by U.S. "advisers" and a substantial U.S. military and economic assistance which was to give it a sham prestige). With the "special war" (started in 1961) – waged under U.S. high command, i.e. General P. Harkins' M.A.C., set up in Saigon since the beginning of 1962 and with the help of special U.S. units, Washington implicitly recognized the fiasco of its experiment with the puppet nepotist dictatorship.

It reduced to choose minor and more submissive henchmen to replace the Ngo family which had proved incapable of carrying on the strategy of "special warfare," stepping up and extending the U.S. war and had even impeded U.S. war effort. The November 1963 coup engineered by the C.I.A. eliminated the Ngo family but maintained its whole staff.

New difficulties arose. The "special warfare" strategy, powerless, was doomed to an irremediable failure. Washington gradually shifted over from the "special war" to the "limited war", by despatching masses of G.I.'s to South Viet Nam since mid-1965. It needed Saigon young military – obscure but ambitious, more bellicose and more blood - thirsty, more pliable – to step up and extend the war. After having tried several military and civilian dictatorships, from Minh - Tho to Suu - Quat, it adopted the Thieu-Ky tandem which was too glad to apply to the two cruellest forms of war in present times: the "limited war" in South Viet Nam with more than half a million U. S. and satellite troops and the air and naval "war of destruction" on North Viet Nam.

Thus the present "Saigon regime" was born of the grave and inherent crisis of the system of puppet power created by the U.S. neo-colonialists for the purpose of an aggression against Viet Nam. An element of neo-colonialism in its critical phase of war, it can only hold its ground in "security areas," under the protection of foreign troops. An offspring of a cynical foreign interference, it is unpopular and illegal for it serves the imperialists' interests at the expense of those of the people.

SAIGON'S "PRESIDENTIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS" FARCES

WASHINGTON did its utmost to stage "presidential and parliamentary elections" to camouflage the real nature of the Saigon regime and give it a cloak of democracy and legality.

Everybody knows that the "elections" in September and October 1967 took place amidst the rumble of war materials being unloaded at the overpacked port of Saigon and the thunder of bombs. The election farces performed in the U.S.-occupied zone which included only one-fifth of the territory and one-fourth of the population in South Viet Nam did not prove in any way the legitimacy of a military dictatorship serving U.S. "limited war." In its September session, the Board of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers stated:

"The U.S.A. recently staged 'presidential and Senate elections' in South Viet Nam with a view to giving its henchmen a cloak of popular representation. A so-called 'general and popular election' carried out in South Viet Nam – under the guns of foreign troops on combat duties – by Washington's henchmen who did not even control the part of territory where the election was supposed to be held, had no significance."

Moreover, fraud was rife in U.S. neo-colonialist election farces in South Viet Nam, as stressed by the foreign press.

According to the French paper *Combat* (Sept. 5, 1967), "Before the vote, one doubted much its regularity and its honesty," fraud being much too certain and flagrant. Saigon gave the figure of 5,850,000 electors, which assumed that it controlled at least 12,000,000 inhabitants. The claim was absurd for three-fourths of the 14 million South Vietnamese lived in N.F.L.-controlled areas. The fantastic Saigon 83.3 per cent polling was "rather more frightful than encouraging" since "it is common knowledge that the electors had no enthusiasm and no confidence in democracy (Thieu-Ky's democracy – *Ed.*). Many voted for money, under threat or pressure..." (*Express*, Sept. 4, 1967). At the second session of the International War Crimes Tribunal in Copenhagen, many witnesses spoke of electoral fraud in South Viet Nam. A West German professor who had taught seven years in a Hue university revealed that the Thieu-Ky clique had puppet troops brought by military vehicles to vote in many places. Is it not relevant to the official verdict by Ngo Dinh Diem's lieutenant themselves after the collapse of Diem:

"Ngo Dinh Diem has been overthrown, the presidential regime ended, the government set up by Diem ousted for Ngo Dinh Diem's government has betrayed the most sacred interests of the entire people, it has carried out deceitful and fraudulent elections" (1st and 2nd decisions of the so-called "Revolutionary military government" presided over by Duong Van Minh, November 2, 1963). The anti-national, deceitful and fraudulent character was inherent in Diem's regime as it is in any other U.S. neo-colonialist puppet regime in South Viet Nam and any other puppet regime in the world.

In its September statement, the Board of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers was right to conclude: "The results of these elections stress that real effectiveness and representation belong to the N.F.L." The illegality of the Saigon regime, an offspring of the dollar, cynical deceit and a protégé of foreign bayonets, throws light on the legality of the South Viet Nam N.F.L., banner of independence, democracy and peace.

SET up against the South Vietnamese people's will by dint of corruption, demagogy and intimidation, the anti-national and anti-democratic Saigon regime is politically and juridically illegal. It is destined to cover up the intervention of G.I.'s and legitimize the U.S. aggressive war on the Vietnamese people in the South and in the North. In its war activities in South and North Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia, the Johnson administration has been harping on the same string, its so-called "commitment" to the Saigon regime. Challenging the Vietnamese people's will and public opinion, the U.S.A. and its satellites have recognized the Saigon regime which can by no means legitimize it against the people's will. This recognition only testifies to foreign interference in Viet Nam's affairs. It cannot legalize and support a reactionary regime, despised by the people. In spite of all U.S. neo-colonialist and machiavellian moves and means, the Saigon regime is doomed to complete failure in face of the irresistible offensive of the national and popular forces in South Viet Nam.

D.R.V.N. News in Brief

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build regional industry and 140 enterprises, construction sites, agricultural farms and co-operatives to study farming technique. Many successful studies have been applied by the bases of production such as the manufacture of cement, regularization of voltage of generators, building of small hydro-power stations. The College of Construction has studied the method of river crossing, heavy tonnage bridges, pumping system suitable to the delta.

The Agricultural College has successfully studied cultivation, animal husbandry, veterinary service, agricultural engineering, economy and basic sciences. In 1967, the College of Mines and Geology studied 30 subjects referring to production and the fighting; many of them have a great scientific value.

TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

A Film Studio in the Heart of CU CHI

FOR three hours on end I followed the messenger boy on the jungle path, crossing many brooks, many clearings covered with elephant grass and many dense bamboo forests.

Then we walked another thirty minutes and the boy suddenly turned round to look at me and said with a broad grin: "We'll arrive soon."

He then bent down, picked up a dry twig and moved on but more cautiously, his eyes searching for something on the ground. Through my own experience I knew that he was watching for spike traps. The boy's measured steps also meant that we were approaching the base. To alleviate the weariness of a long trip, I decided to start talking with him.

His name was Ch., his age 14, and he had been elected "elite fighter" in the 1966-1967 Winter-Spring campaign.

He said: "Since the beginning of the dry season, the U.S. troops have raided this area ten times. Each time our cinema workers bagged a lot of war booty, all made in U.S.A. For instance, there were U.S. spades, grease and oil of all kinds, car spare parts, ammunition of all denominations and sizes, mines and plenty of steel-pellet bombs and dud artillery shells. Therefore, each time they heard of an impending U.S. raid, our film workers planted no body knows how many mines and booby traps. I know the terrain like the palm of my hand, yet..." I cut in: "Did they bag any Yank?" Like a released spring, the boy turned round abruptly and looked at me, blinking his eyes in excitement. He showed his two fives, letting drop the twig on the ground, thrust his hands forward three times, then showed three more fingers and said proudly:

"Thirty three of them no more nor less in the recent raid alone. Right in the first minutes of the encounter Uncle X., head of the 5th cinema workers' team, blew out the brains of an American commander, then killed a big German dog the size of a calf."

"What next?"

Like a turtledove learning how to coo, the boy recounted the story in high spirits. He spoke of everything, recalling how scanty the quantity of guns and bullets the cinema workers had at first, how they worried about how to beat off the American raiders and to dodge them temporarily, how the most eager of them climbed on top of the fortifications and called on their fellows to come out and fight the Americans, how they managed to borrow each a rifle, etc...

His excitement came to its peak when he related how the cinema workers with borrowed guns formed an impressive anti-tank group. Then, he said, the signal shot rang out, they sprang up from the communication trench and gave chase to the bulky Yanks who ran for life across an open track, some biting the dust with their bowels sticking out and their blood splashed all around.

And the little messenger concluded: "As far as I can see, beating the Yanks is not so difficult as we thought at first. The point is to dare to fight them and also to mount a well co-ordinated fighting between the various offices. Then, it's sure even the guerillas of public organs could beat the hell out of them."

Naturally, I could but agree with him, and added: "But it must take also a lot of brains, calmness and a firm belief in the primitive weapons at our disposal."

I sat waiting in a corner of the underground shelter. From some distance came the dull monotonous rumble of a motor and the scraping sound of a file on a metal surface. Five minutes later a man came out to meet me. He was Sau, of small stature with shining eyes in which I could see a glint of mischief. He took me to the work site. Passing by a tree the top of which had been cut off by a shell or a bomb fragment I saw several U.S. made spades and knives hung in a straight row. This gave me a first good impression of the orderliness prevailing there, a minor point to be sure, but which means a lot of time saved.

Entering another underground used as a workshop for the tinners, I could not help being surprised at the abundance of tools: Napalm bomb shells laminated into sheets of aluminum, electric wire of all kinds and all colours from the controls of American Dakotas, grinders, steel saws and a host of pincers and hammers. Each tool had a place on a small rectangular wooden plank. The workers were engrossed in their work, the ones filing, the others hammering, their bodies sweating heavily. I knew through my host that the instruments they were turning out were of a high standard of precision. What was more, the job which combined the artistic sense with the precision of machinery was no easy one for these youngsters who had just left the plough or the university desk. Yet they had produced all by themselves many accessories which were both expensive and difficult to get, such as film reels. Their perseverance had saved no small sums for the service...

I was led into the underground cave used as a film mending shop where I saw a girl of about 20. The cave was covered with plastic cloth to keep dust off the films. There were reels of various sizes placed in brand-new aluminum boxes bearing the production mark "Giai Phong Film Studio." There were also a bottle of glue and a pair of nickelled scissors placed on a white table cloth. In the silent underground room there was only the sound of pellicle rolling on the reels while the nylon-gloved hands of the girl gently removed the dust. Here there were no white gowns nor neon lights nor air conditioners. There were only zealous men and women totally devoted to their work who defied all the bombs and shells of the enemy and all privations and hardships in accomplishing their task. I also visited the projection teams. All the members were young, healthy fellows. Some came from the army, others from the rich plains of the Mekong. The youngest of them told me: "We film workers in war time regard ourselves as an artillery unit. In fact, like our artillerymen we must carry heavy packs when on the move and when we 'open fire' (he meant film show) we can also measure the effective range of our 'fire power' in the sense that it helps raise the political awareness and revolutionary mettle of the masses. That is why all of us are deeply attached to our job."

An elder member of the team when evaluating the educational effect of the films, said to me: "Our films more and more faithfully reflect the life of the masses while these also better and better appreciate their artistic value. The people in the liberated areas are now fully conscious that a film projection team is not an itinerant theatrical group in the old sense of the word, nor something of a pure recreative character but a highly effective weapon to inculcate revolutionary ideas and sentiments into the masses. After seeing the film *A Daughter of the Party*, a dozen spectators entered the following in the guests' book: 'Seeing this film is just like attending a good political lecture. The film has raised our revolutionary zeal, our determination to defeat the enemy and our loyalty to the Party and the people.' The unit of the People's Liberation Army which had just won a big victory at Cay Trac wrote to us: 'In the Cay Trac victory, you have a big share because you have shown us the film *The Hero Sau*. The example of Vuong Thanh, the intrepid fighter on the nameless hill, helps us to defy the enemy fire and pounce on them at Cay Trac...'"

"Have you travelled much in this Winter-Spring?" I asked him.

He paused a while and said: "Sometimes our audience consists of only five persons. At other times it ran into four thousand. So far we have given shows to about 30,000 people, mostly armymen and the population in the buffer zones. At times the enemy fired artillery while the show was going on. We had to stop for a while and went on with the projection after the shelling. Thence, a film show sometimes lasted till the small hours of the morning! All of us were dead tired but nobody was gloomy. The next moment we packed up and merrily went to another place and did our own share in the Winter-Spring campaign."

As we were talking, some one called out from a deeper underground beneath us:

"Everything's ready, please come down and preview it!"

Thus, a new film had been completed and the team would soon set out for a new projection trip.

Timorously, the Men in Washington Make a New War Escalation

(Continued from page 3)

For nearly three years now, they have dropped over 800,000 tons of bombs on North Viet Nam but still failed to browbeat the Vietnamese people and extricate themselves from their predicament in South Viet Nam. The more hysteric their war escalation and the more odious their crimes, the bitter hatred of the Vietnamese people against them and the greater our effort in the emulation to respond to President Ho Chi Minh's sacred call of Dec. 25, by firmly resisting U.S. aggression for national salvation until final victory and dealing well-deserved punishing blows at the U.S. aggressors.

VIET NAM – CAMBODIA...

(Continued from page 5)

the mutual encouragement and support, all this has contributed to the reinforcement of the solidarity and friendship between the Cambodian people and the South Vietnamese people.

The unstinting efforts of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Kingdom of Cambodia, the signing of trade agreements, the increase of trade exchanges, the establishment of the Hanoi - Phnom Penh air line as well as the exchanges of sport, art and cinematographic delegations have contributed to the development of the economy and culture of each country and the reinforcement of the solidarity and friendship between the Cambodian and Vietnamese peoples. The two parties agree to take necessary measures for the further development of the economic and cultural relations between the two countries.

Both parties express their confidence in the complete victory of the struggle of the Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples for the defence and building of their respective country.

The friendship visit of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Cambodia, His Highness Norodom Phurissara, to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has achieved positive results. This is a new contribution to the consolidation and reinforcement of the militant solidarity and friendly relations between Viet Nam and Cambodia.

The foreign ministers of the two countries have signed at the bottom of this communique dated January 8, 1968 in Hanoi.

South Viet Nam in Brief

A PUPPET GENERAL SACKED

AP reported that on Jan 6, General Phan Trong Chinh, commanding puppet Division 25 was forced to take a long leave on the score of "illness." He had an open letter circulated on Dec. 10 in his unit protesting against the insolent attitude of the American "advisors." The same source disclosed that a Saigon paper had written that "General Chinh's long leave was not because of illness, but because simply of his anti-U.S. attitude."

A PAPER CLOSED DOWN

It was reported from Saigon that on Jan. 7, Thieu-Ky had closed for one month the paper *Song* (Living), one of the most widely circulated papers in Saigon, on the ground that it "hinted at the formation of a coalition government with the communists" (the N.F.L.-*Ed.*)

On Jan. 5, Nguyen Van Thieu threatened to would stamp out all peace movement in South Viet Nam.

160 PEASANTS ARRESTED

ACCORDING to *UPI*, Saigon police rounded up on Jan. 8 160 peasants in an agricultural slop at Da Nang and 60 others going to market by bus. They were all old men, women and children. Policemen said these people had "protested against the bombing of North and South Viet Nam as well as the presence of the Yankees in Viet Nam." An American advisor said the Yankees would expect the recurrence of such protests in months to come.

THE AMERICANS IN SOUTH VIET NAM

IMPOTENCE AND DEADLOCK

Library 1968

WHEN he was still U.S. Defence Secretary, McNamara once blamed Westmoreland for having failed to make the most of the one million American, puppet and satellite troops in Viet Nam. Later on, the Pentagon instructed the U.S. Commander-in-Chief in Viet Nam to strengthen as quickly as possible the fighting capacity of the forces available.

In execution of this order, American brasshats in Saigon worked out a series of measures such as: detaching troops from logistics and support units to mobile infantry units to relieve the serious troop shortage, building a new division by putting together the marine brigades of the puppet strategic reserves, dissolving the weakest puppet divisions to reorganize them into some mobile brigades while scattering the remainder to do "pacification" work and hold territory, merging detachments of puppet troops and dilapidated American units into joint U.S.-puppet units.

THE USE OF THE "PICK OF DESK-BOUND G.I.'S" IN DIRECT FIGHTING ONLY INVITES EVEN HEAVIER SETBACKS

THE modern military structure of the U.S. calls for a large logistics personnel and many support units. Up to now with the ratio of 8 logistics and support troops to 1 combat soldier, the forces of aggression have not been immune to relentless attacks by the P.L.A.F. Now that the strength of troops doing non-combat duty is to be curtailed, what would become the fate of the combat troops. With the present great proportion of troops doing non-combat duty such as clearing and guarding roads, supply, transport, defending base camps, keeping stores and repairing, G.I.'s however continue to fall into P.L.A.F. ambushes, communications to be constantly disrupted, and in a number of battles; men still able to fight get neither food nor water while the wounded receive inadequate medical care. Sometimes it was to be 50 hours before they were given food or water or were evacuated to safety... The reduction of such non-combat troops is tantamount to falling out of the frying-pan into the fire.

Another controversial point in this measure arises from the U.S. tactics which counts mainly on fire-power while the shock force of the infantry move forward to take and hold the ground only after artillery and aircraft have plastered it. Without an increase of fire-power and mobility, how can fighting capacity be strengthened? But if officers and men, pulled out of offices, storages, repair and supply departments, are rent to the battlefield, that is, to throw the "pick of desk-bound" into battle, the fighting capacity of American troops needs no further comment.

CONCENTRATION OF BRIGADES OF THE STRATEGIC RESERVES ALONGSIDE THE DISSOLUTION OF A NUMBER OF PUPPET DIVISIONS IS JUST A VICIOUS CIRCLE

AMERICAN troops are dangerously spread thin to tackle with the P.L.A.F. and hold territory and consequently face a manpower drain. The troop reinforcements Westmoreland has asked Johnson and the Pentagon for are trickling in on a drop-by-drop basis, just enough to relieve those who have ended their duty or are on leave, the dead, the wounded, and the sick (in December last year, the Pentagon hurriedly dispatched 2 brigades of Airborne Division 101). Therefore Westmoreland had to turn to the puppet troops for replenishment.

Battered without let-up by the P.L.A.F. on all battlefields, the enemy had to deploy marine brigades of the puppet strategic reserves into action. Badly trounced, these troops are weak morally and organizationally. Their concentration for the building of a new division only gives rise to new difficulties as far as combat command and organization are concerned. It is impossible to raise the combat skill and strengthen the fighting capacity of a unit by raising its structural level and increasing its size according to the will of some people. This depends on the growth and progress of the unit and the requirements of the battlefield. The South Viet Nam battlefield is placing a greater strain on the U.S. forces. By massing puppet marine brigades which are going from one defeat to another into a division-size unit is a proposition fraught with contradictions, and doomed to failure.

The same is true with the merging of small detachments of puppet troops and big U.S. units into joint U.S.-puppet units or the use of puppet brigades in joint operations with American troops. As the increasingly disintegrating puppet troops in the ranks of the U.S. Army more and more prove their ineffectiveness, this measure will bring nothing good at all. That Brig. Gen. Robert Forbes, Commander of Light Infantry Brigade 199 cleverly cancelled the merging of puppet Colonel Dao Ba Duoc's Ranger unit into his brigade is a proof of this. To hold one's own is already hard! The merging would really be an unbearable additional burden, let alone the strained relations between masters and servants and the disparity in equipment, technique and tactics between the U.S. and puppet troops.

U.S. generals also intend to dissolve puppet regular divisions and reorganize them into brigades. Whole puppet regular divisions have been put in charge of definite areas but are still unable to cope with ever-growing guerilla warfare. What else can they do once they are dissolved? New patched-up brigades with odds and ends from dilapidated divisions will surely meet with a gloomy fate.

This organizational and structural improvement is nothing but a vicious circle. It is like moving round and round in a cul-de-sac.

NO NEW U.S. TACTICS CAN STRENGTHEN U.S. TROOPS' FIGHTING CAPACITY

SO far, U.S. troops have applied the "heliborne," "armoured carrier," "tending the net and throwing the javelin," "leap-frog" and other tactics. These tactics reflect the concept of U.S. troops which is reliance on a huge quantity of bombs and shells and on such modern means of war as quick-firing machineguns, super-sonic jets, B.52 strategic bombers, 175-mm cannons, tanks, armoured personnel carriers, etc... As they all have gone bankrupt, the U.S. troops are finding themselves in even greater quandary.

In the 1967 wet season, such new U.S. tactics as "riverine task forces," "hovercraft" and "floating bases" also came a cropper when put into practice in the Mekong Delta.

Their "white belt" tactics has also proved ineffective. All their bases, big and small, have come under attack and sustained heavy losses. This tactics, far from rendering their bases invulnerable, only adds to their criminal records and increases hatred among the local people. Phu Bai, Chu Lai, Da Nang, Bien Hoa and other bases have been unable to ward off the punishing blows of the P.L.A.F. The "underground bunker" or "dug in" tactics has also been put to test north of Highway 9. Following series of attacks by the P.L.A.F. on Con Tien, Gio Linh, Doc Mieu, Dong Ha and other positions, the enemy has had to admit that never before had the fate of U.S. marines been so pitiful.

The present "electronic barrier" is no more than an outmoded tactics the French colonialists unsuccessfully tested in Algeria. Confronting the U.S. aggressors is a movement of simultaneous uprisings launched by the South Vietnamese people in the Mekong Delta, a movement of armed and political uprisings by 14 million South Vietnamese people. Therefore, the electronic barrier can in no way help the Americans stamp out the revolutionary movement of the South Vietnamese people. Moreover, by using mobile combat forces to defend a system of inert fortifications, the American brasshats, far from raising their fighting capacity, have only reduced it.

Tactical improvement is necessary to increase the fighting capacity of the troops. Such improvement made on the basis of the growth of an army in the flush of victories will vastly enhance its fighting capacity. On the contrary, improvement made with reliance on weapons and means of war at a time when an army is losing heavily just as the American troops are doing, is merely a vicious circle. Tactical improvement in the defensive is a clear indication of their passivity and predicament.

THE war in South Viet Nam is growing fiercer and fiercer and the scale is definitely tipped in favour of the P.L.A.F. As they are surging ahead triumphantly, their growth is vigorous. Many improved combat tactics have a strategic value, such as the use of artillery in annihilation battles. As for the American forces, they have made every effort to improve their organization and tactics, but their improvement is no more than a series of makeshift plagued with contradictions. These measures can in no way help boost their fighting capacity; instead they only show their failure, passivity and predicament on the South Viet Nam battlefield.

Top: *The Da Nang airbase after the P.L.A.F. shelling on Jan. 3, 1967: 21 aircraft destroyed or damaged*

Bottom: *Sabotage of railway tracks by the guerillas*

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